

may "contain biological sludge". Accordingly, the claim amendment is fully supported in the specification and clarifies that in the claimed invention, the object to be processed may be an object "which contains biological sludge", as claimed.

In addition, the amendment further distinguishes the invention of claim 2 from the Bender reference. Although Bender discloses contaminated soil and water, leachate, and slurries of soil and water as objects to be processed with a microbial mat, the reference contains no teaching or suggestion of any object "which contains biological sludge", as claimed. Therefore, in that the reference fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention, Applicants urge that any rejection of claim 2 as being obvious must be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks above and the response of June 5, 2002, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and request favorable action thereon.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any

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fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit
Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 107350-00003.

Respectfully submitted,

ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC

Hans J. Crosby
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,634

Customer No. 004372
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000
Fax: (202) 638-4810